Module 32

The Twenty-First Century

Essential Question
How is the United States different today than in 1776?

About the Photo: Young people like these are helping to shape the future of the United States.

In this module you will read about the amazing events that have changed our world in recent years. You will also learn about the War on Terror and the development of new technologies.

What You Will Learn …

Lesson 1: Challenges for a New Millennium . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 982
The Big Idea George W. Bush and the United States responded to terrorist attacks and a changing economy.

Lesson 2: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 988
The Big Idea Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama led the country through many domestic and foreign challenges.

Lesson 3: Rapid Changes . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 994
The Big Idea The United States continues to grow and change as we move ahead in the twenty-first century.

Videos, including...
- Election 2008
- 9/11 Watershed Event
- Fighting the War on Terrorism
- Condoleezza Rice
- Computers

✓ Document-Based Investigations
✓ Graphic Organizers
✓ Interactive Games
✓ Image with Hotspots: The Global Automobile Industry
✓ Interactive Map: World Life Expectancy, 1990–2013
✓ Image Carousel: Factors in Climate Change
Timeline of Events 1995–2015

United States


1995

World

2001 The Taliban regime is driven from power in Afghanistan.

2002 The Department of Homeland Security is created to oversee domestic security.

2005 Hurricane Katrina hits several southern states, especially devastating the city of New Orleans.

2008 Barack Obama is elected the first African American president of the United States.

2010 Arab Spring, a political movement against oppressive and corrupt government, begins in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

2013 The Boston Marathon is bombed, leaving several dead and hundreds injured.

2013 Pope Francis is elected pope following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

2014 New York City’s new World Trade Center building opens, 13 years after 9/11.

2014 The largest Ebola epidemic spreads into several African countries, raising fears around the globe.
The war in Iraq caused fierce debate at home. After months of searching, no weapons of mass destruction were uncovered. No concrete ties between Saddam and al Qaeda could be proven either. Critics began to accuse the Bush administration of exaggerating the danger Saddam posed to the United States. The continuing violence between Iraqi insurgents and U.S. soldiers led many Americans to call for an end to the war.

I have read about other wars in which the American public was divided over the action the country should take. In the War of 1812, there was a convention of delegates opposed to the war. In the 1960s and 1970s, many citizens publicly protested the Vietnam War. What happened in these past wars that might happen in the Iraq War? I predict that this war will not end with a clear victory because the American people do not fully support it.
You Try It!

The following passage is from the module you are getting ready to read. As you read the passage, look for the facts that can help you predict what might happen in the future.

The Internet was first developed in 1969 by scientists at the U.S. Department of Defense. Early computer networks were used mainly by government and university researchers. Then in the 1990s, computer programmers developed the World Wide Web, enabling people to access information from computers around the world. Internet use exploded in the 1990s. Computers and the Internet made it easier and faster for people at home, work, and school to access and share information. This important development was known as the Information Revolution.

After you read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. What other revolutions have you read about in the study of American history, and how have they affected American society?

2. Is the Information Revolution similar to any other revolution you have read about?

3. How might the Information Revolution affect American society in the future?

As you read Module 32, use the information given to predict what may happen in American society in the next ten years.
Challenges for a New Millennium

If YOU were there . . .

It is the December after the presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore. For weeks, people have been talking about whether the votes can be recounted by hand. The race was too close to call on election night, and now the candidates are involved in a court case that will decide who the next president will be.

How would you solve the problem of recounting votes?

The 2000 Presidential Election

The United States was at peace and enjoying economic prosperity as the 2000 presidential election neared. The Democrats chose Al Gore, who had served as Bill Clinton’s vice president, as their nominee. The Republican candidate was Texas governor George W. Bush, the son of former president George H. W. Bush.

Campaign Issues  One major campaign issue was how to use the federal budget surplus, which totaled nearly $100 billion in 1999. Gore said he would put more money into education and health care, and use some of the surplus to pay off a part of the national debt. Bush promised to return the money to taxpayers through tax cuts. Bush and Gore also debated the role that the United States—now the world’s only superpower—should play in global affairs. Campaign polls showed that the race was very close.

On election night, the voting in some states was so close that no winner could be declared right away. It was so close in Florida that the votes had to be recounted. A machine recount found that Bush had received a few hundred more votes than Gore. But Gore supporters wanted the votes in four counties to be counted by hand. They argued that this would ensure all votes were counted. The Bush campaign challenged this in court.
Reading Check
Analyze Information
What was unusual about the outcome of the 2000 presidential election?

After several weeks of suspense, the Supreme Court ruled. The Supreme Court said that the manual recounts could not ensure that all votes would be counted the same way. They ordered the recount to stop. Florida’s 25 electoral votes went to Bush, making him the winner of the election. He was the first president in more than 100 years to win the electoral vote but lose the popular vote.

Bush’s Early Days in Office  The disputed election, however, caused lingering bitterness between Democrats and Republicans. Republicans held a small majority in the House of Representatives, while the Senate was split 50–50. When votes in the Senate are tied, the vice president casts the tie-breaking vote. This gave Vice President Dick Cheney an important role in helping to pass Republican legislation.

Bush appointed General Colin Powell to the key position of secretary of state. Powell became the first African American to hold this office. Bush carried through with his campaign promise to cut taxes. Six months after taking office, he signed into law a $1.35 trillion tax-cut plan. He also signed an education reform plan called No Child Left Behind. This created a national set of standards for every student and every school to meet. It also raised funding for schools.

Fighting Terrorism
Despite many plans for educational and economic reform, President Bush was soon faced with the challenge of confronting terrorism. His administration became focused on developing a foreign policy to protect Americans from the growing threat of terrorist attacks after the events of September 11, 2001.
September 11, 2001  On September 11, 2001, terrorists took control of four commercial airliners. The hijackers used them as weapons to attack sites in Washington, DC, and New York City. They flew an airplane into each of the two towers of the World Trade Center, an important business center in New York City. The resulting fires caused the buildings, which had been the tallest in the nation, to crumble to the ground with many people inside. Another airplane was flown into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Department of Defense located outside of Washington, DC. A fourth airplane crashed in a Pennsylvania field. About 3,000 people were killed in the attacks. These included the airplane passengers, workers and visitors in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and rescue workers aiding the victims.

The tragedy brought Americans together. The nation received support from foreign leaders and citizens. One French newspaper's headline read, “WE ARE ALL AMERICANS.” President Bush promised to find and punish those responsible for the attacks.

United States officials determined that the hijackers were members of a fundamentalist Islamic terrorist group in Afghanistan called al Qaeda, or “the Base.” The group was based in Afghanistan and was led by a wealthy Saudi Arabian exile, Osama bin Laden. The Taliban was an extreme Islamic group that ruled the country. After Taliban leaders refused to turn over bin Laden, the United States took military action. In October 2001 the United States attacked Afghanistan. It drove the Taliban from power but failed to find and capture bin Laden. The United States then began helping Afghanistan to rebuild and establish a democratic government.

War in Iraq  After the attack on Afghanistan, attention turned to Iraq. President Bush argued that Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, posed an immediate threat to U.S. security. When the Persian Gulf War ended in 1991, Saddam had agreed to give up Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. These are chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons that can kill thousands. However, Saddam failed to fully cooperate with UN weapons inspectors.
Leaders from France, Germany, and Russia argued that the UN inspectors should be given more time to search for weapons. President Bush and British prime minister Tony Blair disagreed. They said Iraq should be forced to comply with the weapons ban. On March 20, 2003, the United States and a coalition of allies launched a ground attack on Iraq. Saddam’s government collapsed, and Saddam was eventually captured.

As in Afghanistan, U.S. officials began working with Iraqis to establish a democratic government. Violence continued, however. U.S. soldiers and Iraqis who were working to rebuild the country were attacked. Iraqi voters elected new government leaders and approved a new constitution in 2005. In 2006 an Iraqi court sentenced Saddam to death. He was executed a short time later. Deep divisions among Iraqis remained an issue, however, threatening the stability of the new government.

The New Global Economy

In addition to the issues the nation faced overseas, the Bush administration and later the administration of President Barack Obama confronted a variety of domestic problems. These challenges ranged from unemployment to the national debt.

In public opinion polls taken in 2010, Americans listed economic recovery and unemployment among the most important challenges facing the United States. Other major concerns included health insurance reform, terrorism, and immigration. The growing national debt was another key concern. After several years of surpluses, the government began running a deficit again in 2002. Slow economic growth, the cost of the war in Iraq, and tax cuts all contributed to the rising budget imbalance. Beginning with the 2010 budget, the deficit was expected to fall from previous years, but remain high as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The GDP is the value of all goods and services produced in a country each year.

Financial Crises Affect Americans. The American economy has experienced important ups and downs in recent years. During the 1990s the stock market boomed, and unemployment fell to its lowest level in 30 years. Much of this economic growth was powered by Internet companies and other high-tech firms. When some high-tech firms failed to earn profits, their stocks lost value. Many went out of business. Unemployment began rising again. Large investment firms suffered huge losses due to their investments in risky mortgages. Amid controversy, the federal government provided money to help these firms recover.

Changes in American Industry. In recent years, many traditional industries have declined in importance to the U.S. economy. Many textile companies, for example, have closed mills. They’ve shifted their operations to countries where labor is less expensive. There has also been an increased use of computer-driven robots to make manufactured goods. This has often eliminated many jobs. This is part of a larger trend in which the percentage of Americans working in manufacturing has steadily fallen. The U.S. economy has moved toward becoming a service economy. This
means that most people have jobs providing services, such as medical care or entertainment, rather than producing goods.

By the end of the 1990s, about 75 percent of American workers were employed in jobs in the service industry. By 2010 this number had risen to above 80 percent and keeps rising. Health care, computer engineering, and education are expected to be among the fastest-growing fields. Such predictions are based partly on population trends. As the number of older Americans increases, for example, so will the need for nurses and other health-care professionals.

Globalization and the U.S. Economy  Another ongoing change in our modern economy is the process of globalization—growing connections among economies and cultures all over the world. Multinational corporations, or companies that do business in more than one country, play a large part in globalization. For example, you can find American fast-food restaurants in Russia and Japanese car factories in the United States. Increasing international trade has also contributed to globalization. The use of computerized manufacturing processes has sped up and increased productivity. This has improved the standard of living in many countries, providing more international trade opportunities. In 1995 more than 120 nations joined to form the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO’s goal is to promote international trade by removing political and economic trade barriers between nations.

At the start of the twenty-first century, the global economy began to slow down. In 2001 the economies of more than a dozen countries were in recession. Many other countries reported lower growth rates. Foreign investment to developing countries declined, damaging their economies. The U.S. economy also weakened.
Lesson 1 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Describe** What was the outcome of the 2000 presidential election?
   **b. Explain** How did George W. Bush promise to use the government surplus?
   **c. Elaborate** How do you think the election of 2000 shows the importance of voting?

2. **a. Identify** What is al Qaeda?
   **b. Explain** Why did the United States enter into the war with Iraq?
   **c. Predict** What do you think the future holds for the war on terror?

3. **a. Recall** How has the American economy changed in the past several decades?
   **b. Explain** What caused government deficits to rise in the early 2000s?
   **c. Draw Conclusions** How do you think globalization has changed the U.S. economy?

Critical Thinking

4. **Identify Cause and Effect** In this lesson you learned about the major events of George W. Bush’s presidency. Create a cause-and-effect graphic organizer similar to the one below to describe events of the presidency of George W. Bush.

By 2004 both U.S. and world economies began to recover. However, several major banking firms collapsed and began a global financial crisis in late 2007. Even financially secure banks cut back on their lending. This meant that many businesses could not get the money to invest in new inventory. They could not hire new employees and sometimes had trouble paying their existing workers. The stock market dipped. Unemployment rose quickly. The United States was in an economic recession.

To pull the country out of the recession, the U.S. government passed legislation intended to boost investment in the public and private sectors. Approved by President Bush in 2008, the Troubled Asset Relief Program committed $475 billion to stabilize the U.S. banking and automobile industries. Later, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This program distributed over $8 billion in funds to individuals through tax credits and programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, and unemployment benefits. ARRA also awarded grants and loans for government contracts to American businesses. These actions added jobs, increased GDP, and reduced unemployment in 2009. A slow economic recovery began.

**Summary and Preview** Terrorism became a major national and international concern after the events of September 11, 2001. At the same time, globalization had a profound effect on the U.S. economy. In the next lesson you will learn about other foreign and domestic policies and issues facing Americans today.

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Lesson 2

Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues

The Big Idea
Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama led the country through many domestic and foreign challenges.

Main Ideas
- The nation faced difficult challenges during President Bush’s second term.
- Barack Obama became the first African American president of the United States.
- The Obama administration worked toward economic recovery and ending the Iraq War.
- Donald J. Trump won the 2016 presidential election.

Key Terms and People
Department of Homeland Security
USA PATRIOT Act
Condoleezza Rice
Nancy Pelosi
Barack Obama
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

If YOU were there . . .
The Department of Homeland Security has just been established to protect the United States from foreign and domestic threats. You are part of the department’s leadership.

What do you think should be done first to safeguard the country?

George W. Bush
After the events of 9/11, President Bush declared that the United States was waging a War on Terror. The Department of Homeland Security was established in 2002 to manage the actions. The department was to analyze threats; guard the nation’s borders, seaports, and airports; search for terrorists in the United States; and coordinate the country’s response to terrorist attacks.

USA PATRIOT Act
Responding to 9/11, Congress quickly passed the USA PATRIOT Act in late 2001 to give the government power to search and conduct electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists. This law gave the government expanded powers to protect the nation. It allowed the government to
- detain foreigners suspected of terrorism for a week without charging them with a crime,
- tap all phones used by suspects and monitor their email and Internet use,
- make search warrants valid across states,
- order U.S. banks to investigate sources of large foreign accounts, and
- prosecute terrorist crimes without any time restrictions.

Some people have questioned whether the USA PATRIOT Act is constitutional. Critics complained that it gave law enforcement too much power and posed a threat to basic American freedoms. To address these complaints, Congress
let some provisions of the law expire after a set period of time. Since then, some of the provisions have been extended for security purposes.

In response to 9/11, many states have also passed legislation specifying how and when electronic surveillance can be used by the government to monitor people. The debate over the constitutionality of many of these laws continues.

Debating the Iraq War The war in Iraq caused fierce debate at home. After months of searching, no weapons of mass destruction were uncovered. No concrete ties between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda could be proven either. Critics began to accuse the Bush administration of exaggerating the danger that Saddam posed to the United States. The continuing violence between Iraqi insurgents and U.S. soldiers led many Americans to call for an end to the war. Meanwhile, growing concerns that Iraq's neighbor, Iran, was working to develop nuclear weapons caused additional tensions in the region.

Administration Changes George Bush was re-elected in the 2004 presidential election. Afterwards, Secretary of State Colin Powell resigned. Bush appointed Condoleezza Rice as his replacement. She became the first African American woman to hold the office. Bush’s other new cabinet appointees included Alberto Gonzales, the first Hispanic attorney general.

In late 2005 Bush nominated two new Supreme Court justices, John Roberts and Samuel Alito. The Senate investigated each thoroughly before approving them. With the confirmation of Bush’s nominees, the Court began making more conservative rulings.

Due to public discontent with his policies in the Middle East, President Bush lost much of his support among voters. Democrats gained a majority in both houses of Congress in the 2006 midterm elections. The new Congress elected Nancy Pelosi the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. In response to the outcome of the election, Secretary of
Defense Donald Rumsfeld resigned and a new secretary, Robert Gates, was appointed. The newly elected Congress began calling for a plan to withdraw from Iraq.

**Second-term Issues** Bush’s administration faced much criticism for its response to the natural disasters of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Hurricane Katrina flooded many parts of the Gulf Coast and the city of New Orleans. Local, state, and federal governments were criticized for their inadequate response to the crisis. The director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stepped down amid criticism. As victims tried to rebuild their towns and cities, Hurricane Rita struck a second blow to the region. The combined effects of the two storms caused many residents to permanently leave the Gulf Coast area.

President Bush became less popular as the Iraq War continued and the U.S. economy weakened. The financial markets collapsed in the fall of 2008, causing an economic recession. At this point, more than two-thirds of Americans disapproved of Bush administration policies.

**Barack Obama**

In the 2008 presidential election, Americans voted for a change by electing Democrat **Barack Obama**, a U.S. senator from Illinois. In defeating Republican senator John McCain of Arizona, Obama made history as the first African American to be elected president of the United States. Obama went on to be re-elected to the presidency in 2012.

**Economic Recovery** Soon after taking office, Obama pushed through an economic stimulus package in an effort to end the recession brought on by the crash of the financial markets in 2008. The $787 billion stimulus package law was intended to create 3.5 million American jobs within two...
years. By the end of 2009, the Federal Reserve reported that there were some signs that a slow economic recovery had begun.

Health Care Reform President Obama also tackled health care reform. A major issue facing the country was that many Americans did not have health insurance and were suffering for it. Some 17.4 percent of non-elderly Americans were uninsured in 2008. About 8 million of those were children.

In 2010 President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) into law. The law aimed to make health care affordable to all Americans. It also specified that most Americans were required to get some level of health insurance. Beginning in 2013, uninsured Americans could buy health insurance plans set up in accordance with the PPACA. However, many people criticized aspects of Obama’s health care reform. For instance, whether or not the government could mandate that citizens obtain health insurance is hotly debated.

Issues with health care reform combined with continuing high unemployment rates made some voters unhappy. Many Americans did not see any economic improvement in their lives. This discontent led to Republicans gaining a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2010 midterm elections.
**War and Terrorism** The Obama administration made specific plans to end combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2010 Operation Iraqi Freedom ended seven years after it began, with a withdrawal of combat troops. About 50,000 troops remained for smaller missions and to train Iraqi soldiers until the end of 2011. However, military operations in Afghanistan increased. Obama announced in 2009 that an additional 30,000 troops would be sent to Afghanistan to keep the Taliban from gaining ground. These soldiers joined about 70,000 already there.

Efforts to combat terrorism continued. In 2011 U.S. Special Forces tracked down and killed terrorist Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. This was a huge blow against al Qaeda. A terrorist group known as the Islamic State, or ISIS, gained strength and became a threat in 2014. ISIS quickly captured large areas of territory in Iraq and Syria. The Obama administration responded with military airstrikes against ISIS with the help of other allied countries. The United States also sent several thousand troops to Iraq to help train Iraqi forces.

**Gun Violence** Domestically, gun violence in schools and elsewhere was a growing problem that challenged presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama. School shootings and other mass shootings happened in the United States about 67 times between 1996 and 2014. It became a top priority to Americans to stop gun violence everywhere. But how to solve the problem has been debated over and over again with differing opinions.

In 2010 the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment’s right to bear arms applies to local and state gun control laws. The Court held that the right to self-defense is fundamental to American civil liberties. This meant that laws banning handguns at state and local levels were unconstitutional. In 2013 President Obama responded to the killing of 20 first-graders in Newtown, Connecticut, with proposals to tighten federal gun-control laws. His plan included background checks for gun sales, an assault weapons ban, limiting ammunition magazine capacity, and other measures. The gun control debate is ongoing.

**The 2016 Presidential Election**

In 2016, as President Obama entered his final year in office, campaigns for the 2016 presidential election heated up. The election turned out to be one of the most surprising in U.S. history. The Democrats nominated former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as their candidate. The Republicans chose New York businessman and real estate developer Donald Trump.

Before Election Day, political surveys called polls predicted that Clinton would win. However, on November 8, 2016, Trump won the election. He secured 306 electoral votes, well over the 270 electoral votes needed to become President. However, he lost the popular vote to Clinton by nearly 3 million votes. On January 20, 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.
Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. Describe  What power was given to the government by the USA PATRIOT Act?
   b. Explain  How did the war in Iraq become a source of strong debate?
   c. Recall  Who is Condoleezza Rice?
   d. Interpret  Based on Bush’s choices for Supreme Court justice nominees, was his administration more politically liberal or conservative?

2. a. Describe  What was the purpose of Obama’s economic stimulus package?
   b. Explain  What was the major issue that health care reform was designed to solve?
   c. Interpret  Why do you think Obama at first reduced the amount of troops in Iraq rather than withdrawing all troops at one time?
   d. Recall  What 2010 ruling did the U.S. Supreme Court make regarding the Second Amendment’s right to bear arms?

3. a. Identify  How many electoral votes does a presidential candidate need to become president?
   b. Summarize  Why was the outcome of the 2016 election a surprise to voters?

Critical Thinking

4. Categorize  In this lesson you learned about the foreign and domestic issues faced by presidents Bush and Obama. Create a table similar to the one below to categorize the presidential policies and actions taken by both presidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>International Issues</th>
<th>Domestic Issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President Bush</td>
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<td>President Obama</td>
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Summary and Preview  The new millennium brought many foreign and domestic challenges for our country’s leaders. These challenges have been hotly debated by many Americans. In the next lesson you will learn about technological advances and population changes in the United States today.
If YOU were there . . .

You are a student studying American history. You have read about the dramatic impact that inventions, new industries, political changes, and wars have had on daily life over the years. In your own life, you have seen how much things can change in just a few years. Now picture yourself living in the United States 50 years from now.

What will be different about life in America?

Technology Moves Forward

As you have seen throughout this book, technological changes and new inventions have dramatic effects on life in the United States and around the world. This continues to be true of our lives today. Just think about all the ways you use technology every day.

One of the technologies that has changed everyday life is the Internet. This is a global system of computer networks that allows people anywhere in the world to communicate and share information. The Internet was first developed in 1969 by scientists at the U.S. Department of Defense. Early computer networks were used mainly by government and university researchers. Then in the 1990s, computer programmers developed the World Wide Web, enabling people to access information from computers around the world.

Internet use exploded in the 1990s. Computers and the Internet made it easier and faster for people at home, work, and school to access and share information. This important development was known as the Information Revolution.

The communication networks made possible by the Internet made economic interdependence among nations increase tremendously. Excitement about the Internet and the Information Revolution helped fuel the economic boom of the 1990s. Although not all Internet companies succeeded, the Internet has changed the way we find information and communicate with each other. Internet use continues to grow
rapidly around the world today. Many companies capitalize on technological innovations by developing products for personal use. Consumers now want the most current technology in cell phones, laptop computers and tablets, and other personal electronic devices. It is a huge industry.

**Cyberbullying** A downside of the technological innovations now available to people is cyberbullying. Bullying is harassing a person with threats, lies, or embarrassment of some kind. Bullies intentionally try to hurt their victims. Cyberbullying is a type of bullying that is done online using cell phone text messages and voicemails or computer emails and instant messages. Cyberbullies can be people that one has met in person. They can also be online acquaintances or even strangers. Most often, cyberbullies know their targets.

The following types of cyberbullying are crimes in some states, but not in all:

- threats of violence
- a hate crime (harassment based on race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or religion)
- sexually explicit messages or photos
- stalking
- images of someone in a place where that person would expect privacy

The best defenses against this growing problem are to never give out personal information (such as passwords), to not respond to any threatening messages, to not send embarrassing pictures, and to be as polite as possible in messages. Police should be notified if there are state or local cyberbullying laws that apply. A cyberbullying instance that includes a hate crime may break federal civil rights laws.
Medical Advances Technology is also helping with new medical research. For example, researchers have made important breakthroughs in understanding connections between genetics and illness. In 2003 scientists completed the Human Genome Project. This identified more than 30,000 genes in human DNA. This information could be used to find treatments for a wide range of diseases, including cancer.

Improved technology has made medical diagnoses more successful as well. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), for example, produces cross-sectional images of any part of the body. As advances are made, the MRI procedure becomes faster, cheaper, and more widely available. Medical researchers foresee using tiny “nanosensors” about 50,000 times thinner than the width of a human hair to find tumors. They predict using “nanobots” to repair tissues and even genes.

Another ongoing challenge for medical researchers is fighting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It effectively shuts down the body’s immune system. This makes it more likely that people with AIDS will contract other illnesses and die. As of 2015, as many as 36 million people worldwide had died from AIDS. Scientists have developed drugs that help control HIV. But they have not yet found a cure. Public health officials advocate abstinence and “safer sex” practices to help prevent the spread of HIV. In 2002 leaders from around the world founded the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Global Fund provides money to treat these deadly diseases and search for cures.

Environmental Damage and Protection Scientists are also searching for ways to help protect the environment. Because environmental quality affects every nation, international solutions are required. In the 1980s, for example, many people became concerned about the condition of the ozone layer. This is a thin layer of gas in the upper atmosphere that blocks harmful solar rays. The United States joined with more than 100 other nations
to ban the use of chemicals that were harming the ozone layer. By 2004 some scientists reported that damage to the ozone layer was slowly being repaired.

Energy consumption in the United States has been increasing along with its population. Today, American transportation remains almost completely dependent on petroleum. In 2014 Americans consumed about 8.8 million barrels of petroleum in the form of gasoline per day. Americans are using more technologies requiring electricity in their homes and workplaces. These technologies include air conditioning, heating, appliances, and electronics. This has increased the use of coal, natural gas, and other energy sources. But while the total energy consumption is going up due to increased population, energy use per household has declined. This is the result of new, more energy-efficient technologies.

Scientists continue to look for ways to reduce American dependence on pollution-producing energy sources. One solution is to cut consumption of raw materials. Objects such as glass and plastic bottles and jars, newspapers, cardboard, and aluminum cans may be recycled. In 2007 recycling saved the energy equivalent of nearly 11 billion gallons of gasoline.

Another environmental issue facing the world is climate change, or **global warming**. Burning fossil fuels such as gasoline and coal releases carbon dioxide into Earth’s atmosphere. Many scientists warn that rising levels of carbon dioxide are causing a greenhouse effect. Heat from the sun is trapped in Earth’s atmosphere. This could cause temperatures to rise, which could trigger rising sea levels and more severe weather patterns. A 2001 United Nations scientific report predicted that Earth’s average temperature could rise between 2 and 10 degrees by 2100. World leaders continue to meet to discuss ways to reduce the effects of global warming.
Concerns about global warming and high oil prices have encouraged development of new transportation technologies. In 2007 Americans bought record numbers of hybrid cars, which run partially on electricity. Scientists are also developing vehicles that will run entirely on hydrogen and release almost no pollution.

**Space Exploration**  Some scientists take on issues facing our planet. Others look to the challenge of exploring space. In 2004 NASA landed two robotic vehicles on Mars. The rovers began exploring the Martian surface. They sent back images that people could see on NASA’s website. In 2009 a probe discovered a significant amount of water on the moon’s surface. More unmanned missions are planned.

Although shuttle accidents in 1986 and 2003 killed 14 astronauts, NASA’s space shuttle program flew over 100 missions since its initial shuttle launch in 1981. In 2010 President Obama proposed a cut to NASA’s budget for Constellation, a program that planned to send humans to the moon for the first time since 1972. In 2011 the Atlantis crew completed the final mission of NASA’s 30-year shuttle program. However, human exploration of space continues on the International Space Station, a space laboratory that has been orbiting Earth and conducting research since 2010.

**The Changing American Population**

The American population will continue to grow in the twenty-first century. The population is changing and becoming more diverse.

**Ethnic Diversity**  The U.S. Census Bureau reports that our population is more ethnically diverse than ever before. In 2013 the bureau reported that Hispanics made up about 17 percent of the country’s total population, making them the country’s largest minority group. African Americans made up just over 13 percent of the American population. Asian Americans were about 5 percent.

Not only is American society increasingly diverse. Individual Americans reflect this diversity as well. In the year 2000, the Census Bureau began allowing people to indicate in official surveys that they were of more than one race, and more than 6.8 million Americans did so. In 2008 American voters chose a man of mixed race, Barack Obama, as president for the first time.

These changes are greatly influenced by immigration patterns. Of the more than 40 million foreign-born residents, 53 percent were born in Latin America and 28 percent were born in Asia. Based on these trends, the Census Bureau predicts that the country’s non-Hispanic white populations will become a minority by the year 2050. The settlement pattern of most immigrants is that they settle in a U.S. city heavily populated by people of a similar background.

Reasons for immigrating to a country are sometimes referred to as push-pull factors. Push factors are those that cause people to leave their homeland and migrate to another place. An example of a push factor is an
environmental condition, such as drought or other natural disaster, that turns habitable land into uninhabitable land. Another example of a push factor is a political situation, such as war or the persecution of certain groups of people for ethnic or religious reasons. These and other push factors can motivate people to immigrate to another country in search of a better situation.

Pull factors draw or attract people to another location. Countries with good economic opportunities and high salaries are the destinations for immigrants attracted to those pull factors. Many immigrants to the United States are drawn by economic opportunities. Another example of a pull factor is a favorable climate that attracts immigrants to a country.

**Religion** Throughout American history, immigrants have added their religious beliefs to the cultural identity of the United States. Most first settlers in the original English colonies were Protestant Christians. Later, immigration increased the numbers of Catholics, Jews, and other religions. Today, immigrants continue to add to our nation’s religious diversity. As more immigrants come from Asia and Africa, religions from those world regions have become a part of the American experience.

Currently, about 80 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christians. Among organized religions, the next largest group is Judaism, at about 2 percent of the population. Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism continue to grow in the United States, although members of each of these faiths make up less than 1 percent of the total U.S. population.

**Older Americans** The U.S. Census Bureau found in 2010 that Americans were older than ever before. The median age was 37.2—six years older than in 1990. Increased longevity and the aging of the baby-boom generation were the reasons behind the rising median age. On average, Americans live to 78.2 years of age.
This older population places new demands on U.S. programs that provide elder care. These programs need to be reworked because millions of Americans will soon be affected. This includes health care programs such as Medicare, which pays medical expenses for senior citizens. The costs of providing Medicare are skyrocketing. By 2010 the costs exceeded $465 billion. The expense will continue to increase as the elderly population increases quickly.

The older population will also drain another U.S. program for the elderly—Social Security. It pays benefits to retired Americans. The Social Security system was designed to rely on continued funding from a vast number of younger workers who would contribute taxes to support a small number of retired workers. This worked well when there were many more workers than retirees to support. But in the near future, there will be so many retired people depending on the system that there will not be enough workers to supply the funding needed.

This has led to many debates on how to reform the Social Security and Medicare systems, but no solutions have been decided upon yet. For Social Security, some solutions have been proposed, such as raising deductions for workers, taxing the benefits paid to wealthier Americans, and raising the age at which retirees can collect benefits. The debates are ongoing.

**Summary** Technological advances are happening quickly to solve problems but sometimes create new issues. The American population is aging and becoming more diverse than ever before. The United States continues to face challenges as well as create opportunities. How would you like to contribute to your country’s future?

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**Reading Check**

**Draw Conclusions** How might the U.S. population change over the next 100 years?
Define the Skill
The United States and the world face many challenges in the twenty-first century. People often have different opinions on how to deal with these challenges, which can lead to controversy. Some of the issues discussed in this book remain controversial.

As citizens of a democracy, Americans have a responsibility to confront controversial issues. This includes learning about different issues and why they are controversial. It also involves discussing the issues and forming opinions about them. Part of the democratic system is listening to other people's ideas about how to solve controversial issues and presenting your own ideas in a helpful way. In this way, everyone's ideas can be heard and discussed, so that the best course of action can be followed.

Learn the Skill
To confront controversial issues, it is important to understand them. You can start by identifying them. For example, one controversial issue in the twenty-first century is globalization—the process of economies and cultures becoming more closely connected. Some people think that globalization is a good way to improve the lives of all the world's citizens. Others think that globalization destroys what is unique about individual cultures.

Once the issue has been identified, you can learn more about it. Books, news reports, and articles are good sources of information on controversial issues. They can provide different points of view on an issue. Gathering different opinions about globalization, for example, can help you see why it is controversial. It can also help you determine your own point of view on the issue.

Follow these guidelines to confront other controversial issues.
1. Identify the issue.
2. Learn about the issue. Gather information on the subject from different sources. Determine why the issue is controversial.
3. Figure out your own point of view on the issue.
4. Discuss the issue with others. Because the issue is controversial and may lead to disagreements, it is important to be respectful of differences of opinion.

Practice the Skill
Follow these instructions to confront the controversial issue of how to deal with terrorism.
1. Find at least three articles showing different points of view about dealing with terrorism.
2. Read and take notes on the articles you have found. Based on what you have learned, determine your own point of view.
3. Have a class discussion about dealing with terrorism. Listen to opposing points of view. Share your own ideas and explain how you arrived at your point of view.
Immigration Today

America has always been a nation of immigrants. Today, people from every country move to the United States. In 2012 approximately 13 percent of the U.S. population was foreign born. Many of these people will eventually choose to become naturalized citizens.

Immigration has been a long-standing debate topic in the United States. Some Americans think that immigration should be open to any interested migrant. Others believe that it should be limited for the good of the country. With the threat of global terrorism, U.S. immigration policy is becoming more strict. People from certain countries must register with the Department of Homeland Security.

The issue of immigration has been complicated by illegal immigration. In 2009 the population of illegal immigrants living in the United States was estimated to be about 11 million. The U.S. Congress has been trying to address this problem for decades. It has passed laws attempting to bar illegal entry and limit benefits for illegal immigrants. Some states, such as those along the border between the United States and Mexico, have taken action to stop the illegal entry of people from Mexico and other nations in Central America. For example, Arizona passed a law giving state and local police more authority to enforce federal immigration laws. As of 2015, the debate over immigration and calls for reform continue.

Immigrants from Asia make up about 40 percent of all foreign-born U.S. residents. Chinese and Japanese immigrants have been coming to the United States for generations. Southeast Asians such as the Hmong, Laotians, Vietnamese, and Cambodians are among more recent arrivals.
Many immigrants from Eastern and Western Europe come to the United States seeking a better life. They accounted for about 9 percent of the immigrants admitted in 2013.

Immigrants from around the world often choose to become naturalized U.S. citizens. The day they take the oath of American citizenship is often a day of celebration, as it was for this mother and daughter from Uganda.

Immigrants arrive in the United States searching for economic, educational, and political opportunities. Immigrants from Mexico and Central America made up about 20 percent of new permanent residents of the United States in 2013.

Interpret Maps
1. **Human-Environment Interaction** From which continent does the largest number of immigrants come?
2. **Movement** How do you think immigration affects U.S. society today?
Module 32 Assessment

Review Vocabulary, Terms, and People

Match the numbered person or term with the correct lettered definition.

1. World Trade Center  a. 2000 Democratic presidential candidate
2. USA PATRIOT Act  b. the rise in average temperatures around the world
3. Al Gore  c. program that pays benefits to retired Americans
4. global warming  d. buildings attacked on September 11, 2001
5. Social Security  e. deadly disease that shuts down the body’s immune system
6. service economy  f. first African American president of the United States
7. AIDS  g. in this situation, most jobs involve providing services rather than producing goods
8. Barack Obama  h. gave the U.S. government power to search and conduct electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

Lesson 1

9.  a. Identify  Who was responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States?
   b. Explain  Why was the 2000 U.S. presidential election controversial?
   c. Evaluate  What happened in 2007 that contributed to an economic recession?

Lesson 2

10. a. Evaluate  Do you think the United States was right to go to war with Iraq in 2003? Why?
    b. Recall  What did the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act require?
    c. Identify  What events have made gun violence a current major issue?

Lesson 3

11. a. Identify  What trend is responsible for increasing diversity in the United States?
    b. Explain  What is the Information Revolution and how do we depend on it?
    c. Predict  What aspects of life do you think will be most affected by new technology in the future?
Module 32 Assessment, continued

**Review Themes**

12. **Economics**  How have changes in the economy affected American society since 2000?

13. **Politics**  How did international politics change over the course of George W. Bush’s presidency?

**Reading Skills**

**Predict**  Use the Reading Skills taught in this module to answer the questions below.

14. What might you predict for the future of society in the United States? What about the U.S. economy? How might American politics stay the same or change? What ideas in the module lead you to these conclusions?

**Social Studies Skills**

**Confront Controversial Issues**  Use the Social Studies Skills taught in this module to answer the question below.

15. Name one controversial issue today. What are two different points of view on the issue?

**Focus on Writing**

16. **Design a Website**  The popularity of the Internet dramatically increased in the 1990s, changing the way we communicate and share information. Review what you have learned in this module, and plan a website about America in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. Decide whether it will be just one page or multiple linked pages. Include information on significant people, events, and ideas, as well as ideas for photos, audio, or video you would like to place on your site. You might also want to provide links to other websites where viewers can find more information. Make sure your links connect to reliable websites, such as government sites or those for newspapers or museums. Finally, choose the website address you would like to use.